

DISPERSANT DATA SUMMARY 6/26/10

Region 6:

- 514 samples have been submitted to date for analysis of dispersant parameters. The first samples were collected 5/11/10. Samples have been analyzed by EPA Houston and Accutest (R6 START lab).
 - EPA Houston reported 2 butoxyethanol, propylene glycol, and 2-propanol.
 - Accutest reported propylene glycol, 2 butoxyethanol, and 2 ethylhexyl alcohol.

Constituents being Analyzed:

Propylene glycol - (PG)

Di(2-ethylhexyl) sodium sulfosuccinate (reported as organic sulfonic acid salt) - (Org Salt) (DOSS)

2-propanol, 1-(2-butoxy-1-methylethoxyl) - (2P)

2-ethylhexyl alcohol - (2EA)

2-Butoxyethyl alcohol / 2-Butoxyethanol - (2BE)

- PG is being reported by Accutest by a modified SW8260 SIM analysis
- 2EA and 2BE are being reported by Accutest by a modified SW8015B analysis

Parrish	Samples with Final Results	Samples with Prelim results
Not Identified	3	2
Cameron	0	12
Iberia	0	46
Jefferson	0	0
Lafourche	6	90
Orleans	0	0
Plaquemines	10	291
St Bernard	0	36
St Mary	0	2
Terrebonne	10	83
Vermillion	0	16

Analytical Issues Being Confronted:

- Key issues and challenges include the following:
 - Confidential Business Information issue delayed the use of commercial labs, but has been resolved.
 - The parameters are not routine for environmental samples and do not have published methods that have been studied and proven.
 - Standards for instrument calibration were difficult to locate.
 - The labs are having to develop methods to report these parameters and yet still provide analytical results while the methods are being refined.
 - There has not been an industry wide agreement for analysis of these parameters. If various labs are using different procedures, the results may not be comparable. Participating labs for government entities need to coordinate and share information.

- Accutest is currently working to report the remaining two parameters – DOSS and 2P. They have standards and moving forward with development.
- If the commercial labs were able to obtain some pure dispersant, it would help with proving the developed methods.
- Delays with the data are being encountered because the methods are not refined or even completely developed.

Results and Early Conclusions

- Results so far have been non-detect. We have not been able to see any detectable concentrations with the current methods.
- Based on Level IV data validation of the first 5 data sets, START R6 chemists are comfortable with the data being generated by Accutest for 2BE and 2EA. Questions have been raised with the PG data. Accutest has made modifications for PG based on the issues that have been raised.
- START R6 received additional Level IV data packages on more recent samples collected and submitted for dispersant analysis (5 more data sets). The Level IV validation should be completed by Monday 6/28/10. If Accutest has been consistent with the 2BE and 2EA, it will be recommended that Level II data validation be completed on all outstanding data sets for these two parameters, and the results posted as final. Based on initial efforts, the 2BE and 2EA data are valid and can proceed with the level II validation.
- Based on initial efforts during the second phase of Level IV data validation, there are more questions regarding the PG data.